GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3958
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-CANCER VARIETY OF TOMATO
JAYABEN B. THAKKAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that US Agriculture Department have developed a variety of tomato which consist anti-cancer element lifopin in a large quantity;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to develop such variety of tomato; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Sir. Researchers from Purdue University and United States Department of Agriculture have claimed development of tomatoes containing enhanced cancer-fighting antioxidant lycopene content.

(b) & (c): Indian Institute of Vegetable Research, Varanasi and National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi both functioning under Indian Council of Agricultural Research are conducting research to develop tomato varieties with high lycopene content. However, National Research Centre for Plant Biotechnology, Pusa, New Delhi is making efforts in obtaining more information about this research work.